

## WA ACE Grant

### Final Report – September 2021

In 2020 the Energy Transformation Association for the Kimberley (ETAK) was awarded a WA ACE Grant to achieve the following outcomes:

- Increased understanding of the energy needs of the Kimberley community
- Increased energy knowledge of ETAK members

The following report outlines the origins of ETAK, the situation in 2021 and the activities that ETAK delivered to achieve the project outcomes.

#### Energy Transformation Association for the Kimberley

*A number of businesses, industries, energy suppliers, indigenous organisations and individuals have joined together to form ETAK with the aim of fostering sustainable and economically robust development of the Kimberley underpinned by affordable and reliable energy. The association was inspired to form following the “Energise the Kimberley” conference in Broome where Senator Dean Smith invited attendees to bring “a common voice” to the government. (ETAK purpose document 2020)*

ETAK was initially formed to build a ‘common voice’ for the Kimberley in response to Senator Smith’s invitation and also to:

- Actively promote the need for, and scope of, the energy transition
- Engage with local and State Government, incumbent energy suppliers, local communities and traditional owners to promote the aims of the Association
- Support and promote projects that can further the aims of the association

While these goals have remained consistent since ETAK's formation, when it came to delivering activities for the WA ACE grant several things had shifted which had ramifications for what we were seeking to achieve. These included:

- The onset of the COVID pandemic resulted in the founding management committee members having less time and energy to put to the organisation. Some of the founding members also changed roles or were unable to attend for various reasons. This resulted in the need to reinvigorate and grow the membership of the organisation while at the same time providing a level of leadership in starting a conversation towards providing a common voice and a level of leadership.
- An economic stimulus package saw Horizon Power committing to a number of upgrade projects in the Kimberley and the development of a Broome Customer Experience Centre.

### Progressing the Conversation – a workshop on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021

The issues outlined above, particularly the first one, resulted in a lack of one clear concrete desired outcome for the planned 'co-design workshop'. Was this an event to get interest in ETAK and its purpose, to gain buy in to the concept of energy transformation, to start to solve some of the problems that people identified or some combination of all of these?

To cut through this challenge we went back to the core co-design – Collaborative Governance and the first step of committing to collaboration – did people want to start the process of working together and the associated issues of building trust and capacity? And could we start to co-define the dilemma? The discussion would focus on Broome as a starting point in the process.

Eighteen people attended the workshop from the following organisations:



- Horizon Power
- Buru Energy
- Kimberly Metal Sands
- Generator and Off-Grid Energy
- Notre Dame University
- Kimberley Development Commission
- Water Corporation
- Engawa
- Broome Builders
- Gurnga Energy
- WA ACE
- EDL
- Best IT & Business Solutions
- ETAK
- Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association

Professor Ray Wills from Future Smart Strategies started the conversation, talking about the future of energy in the Kimberley, before we moved onto the barriers, asking where are we at? What is working, what's not? While we weren't able to arrive at specific solutions to the numerous barriers of such a complex problem, the following table captures the key themes and what ETAK could do to address these barriers

Issues identified	What ETAK aims to do:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leadership regarding renewable energy is needed across all levels to drive strategic change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a strong voice by combining the voices of many stakeholders</li> <li>• Engage with local, State and Federal government to               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ improve energy efficiency</li> <li>○ progress opportunities for renewable energy</li> <li>○ increase electric vehicle adoption</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Advocate for integrated, collaborative and coordinated cross-portfolio Government</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Processes for local dialogue are required to inform long term planning and decisions, to increase transparency and to increase communication</li> <li>• A multi stakeholder entity which can collaboratively pursue the opportunities presented by the energy transformation would be valuable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host dialogues to address specific energy challenges / opportunities for the region</li> <li>• Ensure all stakeholders are involved and engaged in energy system planning across the region – solutions developed from the ground up</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is important to continually develop our understanding of the Kimberley energy situation in terms of supply and demand. This includes both technical issues and also social issues that impact on energy use and culture such as subsidies, high energy needs, affordability and a high level of rental properties. Through this understanding we can identify opportunities and constraints.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake and support studies to demonstrate the viability of renewable energy projects in the Kimberley context</li> <li>• Highlight opportunities available through the energy transformation including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Distributed energy resources (DER) eg. rooftop solar, battery storage</li> <li>○ Standalone power systems</li> <li>○ Energy efficiency</li> <li>○ Electric infrastructure and large scale renewable systems</li> <li>○ Electric vehicles</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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During the workshop discussions there was an ongoing tension between those that wanted to focus on the opportunities that are provided by the energy transformation and driving towards that vs those that wanted to focus more on articulating the problems. This was a symptom of the broadness of the topic but while it was a challenge on the day the process clarified for ETAK that they wanted to primarily drive a narrative of opportunity – and finding ways of addressing constraints to that – rather than being predominantly an advocacy or problem solving organisation.

The discussion also helped define the focus of ETAK as being an organisation for the business community rather than the broader general community and, importantly, there was agreement amongst participants that they wanted to carry on the conversation. The ‘commit to collaboration’ part had been achieved, albeit with a lack of clarity on what that yet meant.

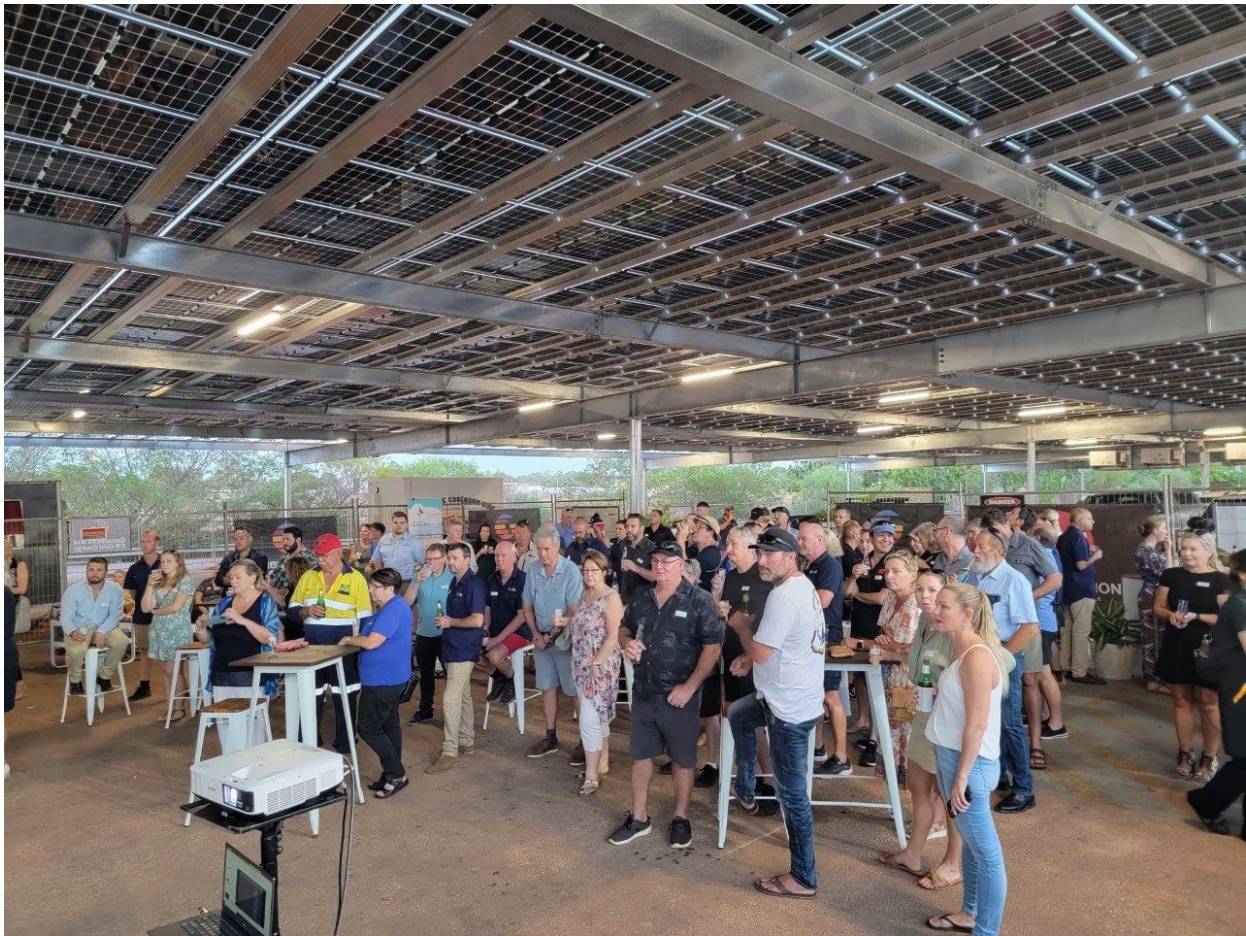
To drive this positive conversation within the business community It was decided to follow up with two subsequent processes to drive this positive conversation – one on one meetings with Ray Wills and business owners and aligning with a Broome Chamber of Commerce event to launch the new solar car park. We were able to achieve this within the initial budget of the project.




### **Aligning with Broome Chamber of Commerce “Canapes Under the Canopy” sundowner event on 17 September**

Approximately 100 people turned up to an event organised to celebrate the new solar car park and again Professor Ray Wills presented on the future of the energy transformation in the Kimberley.

<https://youtu.be/q2qPolUaHBc>





## Canapés under the Canopy

*A BCCI after hours event*

**Join us to celebrate the structural completion of Broome's new solar car park**  
 This locally designed and built solar car park is the largest in Australia in a cyclone region and the second largest nationally


**Thursday 16 September 5pm**

Join us under the solar roof at the East side of the Boulevard for canapés & drinks

**Special guest speaker – Professor Ray Wills**

Professor Ray Wills is a globally recognised authority in Innovation and energy transformation. Hear from one of the leading experts on the future of renewable energy and sustainability


RSVP - [cher@gando.com.au](mailto:cher@gando.com.au)




3:10 📶 🔋

Etak Kimberley 🔍

📷 Photos


**Etak Kimberley**  
 23 h · 🌐

Thanks @ProfRayWills for speaking on behalf of ETAK at this exciting event!


**Broome Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc.** added 26 new photos to the album **Business After Hours: GenOffGrid, HM Tracey & ETAK 16/9/2021.**  
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"Canapés under the Canopy"  
 This week's Business After Hours hosted by GenOffGrid, HM Tracey and Energy... See more



## One on one meetings with Kimberley businesses and government agencies – 13-17 September

During the week of 13 September Professor Ray Wills met with ten businesses, organisations and government agencies to discuss their views on the energy transformation and what they saw as ETAK's role in that. These included:

- ATOM
- Dept of Communities
- Engawa Architects
- First National Real Estate
- Generators and Off-Grid Energy
- H&M Tracey
- Kimberley Community Renewables
- KRSP
- Prendiville Group
- Shire of Broome
- WaterCorp

ETAK plan further engagement and conversations with BCCI, Buru Energy, Horizon Power, Kimberley Mineral Sands, Kimberley Ports, KRSP, LANDCORP, Water Corp, Willie Creek, Dept Communities, Dept Housing, Fruitico, more Broome solar installers, Kimberley Community Renewables

The conversations held with the abovementioned organisations were highly positive, and the intention is to progress these conversations to becoming signed members of ETAK and ultimately, signed and paying members of ETAK.

The other avenue for self sustainability of the group which is currently under development is a potential collaboration with the Broome Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The CEO of ETAK will provide a presentation summarising the above activities and outcomes to the WA ACE forum members at the WA ACE meeting number 8 scheduled for the 30<sup>th</sup> November